

May 14, 2021

Dear ASA Families,

On May 4, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services updated their face mask guidance. According to the [Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253-Gatherings and Face Mask Order](#), face masks are not mandatory outdoors when there are less than 100 people present. In the 10 days that this order has been in effect, we have closely monitored the data in determining whether or not All Saints Academy students and staff would be able to take their masks off while outside. Beginning on Monday, May 17, we are excited to announce that recess and other outdoor school activities will be able to be done maskless. Students who prefer to continue to wear their mask outside will certainly be allowed.

Here are a few of the factors that played into this decision:

- Positivity rates (seven day average) in Kent County are now in the single digits (9.9%) after fluctuating between the low and mid teens when this order first came out.
- Temperatures will be in the mid 70s next week compared to the 50s and 60s during the last two weeks.
- Currently, only one student/staff member is in quarantine with no students/staff members in isolation. We have not had a positive case at All Saints Academy since April 27th.
- We have very little evidence to suggest student to student transmission at All Saints Academy.
- ASA students began the year not wearing masks at recess. This changed on October 5.

Maybe even more significant is the message this will send to students. That because of their hard work and sacrifices during the school year, we are beginning to see their efforts paying off with small steps towards normalcy.

Yours in Christ,

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